

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER  
LISTED

JUN 10 2005

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Rooks County Record Building

Other name/site number F.E. Young Building

### 2. Location

Street & number 501 Main ☐ not for publication

City or town Stockton ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Rooks Code 163 Zip code 67659

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Christy Davis  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Kansas State Historical Society

4/25/05  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:)

Rooks County Record Building  
Name of property

Rooks County, Kansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
NA

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**  
0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

COMMUNICATIONS

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

COMMERCE

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation - Concrete

Walls - Brick

Roof - Synthetic

Other - Metal Cornice

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Rooks County Record Building

Name of Property

Rooks County, Kansas

County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Communications

### Period of Significance

1911 - 1955

### Significant Dates

1911

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ Previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
#

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record #

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository:

Rooks County Historical Society

Rooks County, Kansas  
County and State

## Acreage of Property Less than one acre

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Figure 1 consists of four diagrams, labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4, each representing a 1000m² plot layout. Each diagram is divided into three main sections: Zone, Easting, and Northing. The Zone section is a single column. The Easting section is a row of 10 cells. The Northing section is a grid of 10 rows and 10 columns. The diagrams show different configurations of the plot, with some cells containing numbers (1, 4, 7, 6, 4, 6, 2, 4, 3, 6, 5, 2, 6, 9) and others being empty.

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Name/title	Brenda R. Spencer				
Organization	Preservation Planning and Design		Date	3 December, 2004	
Street & number	10150 Onaga Road		Telephone	785-456-9857	
City or town	Wamego	State	Kansas	Zip code	66547

Submit the following items with the completed form:

## Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

name	Jeffrey W. Dean and Constance L. Beckman			
street & number	122 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street	telephone		
city or town	Stockton	state	KS	zip code 67659

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 7 Page: 5

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

**Narrative Description**

The Rooks County Record Building is located at 501 Main Street in downtown Stockton. Constructed in 1911, it is a two-story red brick Commercial Style structure with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a rectangular plan form with an angled entry bay at the northwest corner. An excellent example of a Progressive Era Commercial Style structure, the design of the Record Building is utilitarian, dictated by function with no ornamentation. Designed to house individual businesses on each floor, the building has separate exterior access at each level. Loosely categorized as a two-part commercial block, the style of windows is the only distinction between the ground and upper floor. Clearly designed for a non-retail function, the ground floor features individual plate glass windows with transoms, rather than traditional commercial storefronts. A simple metal cornice is located approximately 2 feet from the top of the parapet and over the corner entry. A distinguishing feature of the building is a garden terrace (area well) on the north and west sides of the building that provides natural light to the basement level.

Site

The Rooks County Record Building is located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Walnut Street. Although one block east of the main intersection in downtown Stockton, Highway 183 (Cedar Street) and Highway 24 (Main Street), the Record Building stands in a prominent corner location. City Hall is located across Walnut Street just south of the building, and the Courthouse is one block north of Main, on Walnut.

The site is a traditional commercial lot approximately 30' wide by 150' deep. The site fronts Main Street with a concrete sidewalk between the front area well and the curb. Remnants of a sidewalk are evident on the west side of the building and a sidewalk is in place on the rear half of the west side. The concrete area wells extend 4-5' from the building facade on the north and west sides of the building. A mid-block alley, running east/west defines the south border of the site. A small hollow clay tile garage, approximately 20' x 25' is located on the rear property line. Rectangular in form, the garage has a shallow metal gable roof with a high parapet on the east and west sides. An overhead garage door is located on the west facade accessed by a curb cut off of Walnut Street. Former window openings have been infilled on the north, south and east sides and an 8' x 12' stone foundation is extant at the northwest corner of the garage. A small chimney is extant in the center of the east side. The date of construction of the garage is unknown. A structure was in place in this location on the 1912 Sanborn map however, at least one early photo illustrates a frame structure with a gable roof in the same location. The existing structure may be the second structure at the rear of this site. Although unconfirmed, the existing structure is reportedly the city's first ambulance garage.

A 1910 photo of Stockton illustrates that the downtown was comprised primarily of the block west of the Record Building. The 500 block was vacant land with a wood bandstand on the corner lot, where the Record Building now stands. Historic photos confirm that the building has always stood alone. Photos show a one-story building, Gibbs Racket Store, in place two lots east of the Record Building, at the time of construction in 1911. The original exterior cast iron stairway is extant on the east side of the building, providing exterior access to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Early photos illustrate a rear stairway, now removed. The existing one-story building on the east side of the building was built in the 1960s-70s by a local florist.

Exterior

The primary facade of the Record Building faces Main Street (north). An angled entry bay on the corner, serves as the main building entrance. The north facade is two-bays wide; the west facade (fronting Walnut Street) is five bays wide. The two primary facades are similar with the bays defined by corbelled vertical brick pilasters that span the upper two floors. The original wood windows are extant on the entire building. A simple metal cornice is located near the top of the building and over the corner entry. A new membrane roof was recently installed. Concrete retaining walls enclose a garden terrace that provides natural light to the basement level on the north and west sides of the building. This area is accessed by an exterior stairwell on the north side. The west retaining wall has been restored; work is needed on the north wall. The original steel pipe railings are extant.

The front (north) facade is symmetrical. A single, wide double-hung window spans between the brick pilasters in each bay on the upper facade. Upper windows have ashlar stone label sills. A large, wide plate glass window with a single

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 7 Page: 6

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

pane opaque transom spans between the pilasters in each bay on the ground floor. The ground floor windows are distinguished by coursed ashlar stone sills that form a horizontal band on the north and west sides of the building. There are two double-hung windows on the basement level, distinguished by natural-faced limestone sills. The original wood-framed screen is in place on one upper window. The remaining screens are stored inside of the building.

The main corner entrance is raised above grade and accessed by concrete stairs framed by concrete piers. The original door with sidelights and a single light operable transom is extant at the corner entrance. A new aluminum screen door is in place at the front entry; the original wood screen door is stored inside of the building. Brick columns support a stone entablature to frame the recessed door. A simple metal cornice is in place above the stone entablature. The garden terrace extends under the corner entry way connecting the north and west sides. Exterior access to the basement is provided from the area well by a single door at the northwest corner under the main entrance.

The west facade is similar in design to the front facade but it is asymmetrical in its fenestration. Additionally, the five bays are not equal; bays two and four are slightly wider than bays one, three and five. The upper windows are generally pairs of double-hung wood windows that span between the brick pilasters. The pair of windows in the second bay is shorter than the others and the fifth bay is comprised of a single double-hung window over the rear entrance. On the ground floor, bays one and three have large windows identical to the front facade. There is no window in the second bay, and a single double-hung window is in the fourth bay. The fifth bay, on the south end of the west facade is a single door that provides rear access to the ground floor. The garden terrace terminates north of the rear door; there are single and paired double-hung windows at the basement level. The window sills on the west facade match those on the front. A storm in recent years broke the glass in many of the windows. The glass has been replaced in most upper floor windows; the glass is missing in many of the basement windows.

The rear (south) facade is plain, asymmetrical in design with no ornamentation. A single double-hung window and a door are extant on the upper floor, confirming the existence of a former rear stairway. A pair of double hung windows is in place on the west end of the ground floor. The basement level has a center door flanked by a double-hung window on each side. The window wells are in place but the steps to the basement door are in disrepair. The east facade is primarily clay tile, now partially obscured by an adjacent one-story building. The original cast-iron stair and railing is extant. However, former windows (visible on the interior) have been blocked in on the ground level, further evidence that the building was originally free standing.

Interior

Like the exterior, the interior of the building is remarkably intact. Although built, and originally used, as office space, the second floor of the building was converted to an apartment in 1949 and used as such for the next forty years. However, there have been few changes on the buildings interior; the original circulation patterns remain intact. Extant original features and fixtures include plaster walls and some 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ceilings, bead board ceilings, wood trim, original doors with operable transoms and Florentine glass, some light fixtures, and cast iron radiators. Alterations include the addition of some partition walls and new duct work.

The building has a full basement that is comprised of two rooms. The front room is accessed by the corner entrance in the area well. The bead board ceilings are intact with surface-mounted radiators, exposed pipes, surface mounted florescent light fixtures and conduit. Original VAT flooring is in place but in poor condition. The plaster walls are delaminating and show evidence of moisture penetration. The original wood trim, including door and window casings and some baseboards, is extant. The rear of the basement is one large room, the original location of the newspaper printing office. A boiler is in place. The back room is one step below the grade of the front room and has a concrete floor and walls. Bead board ceilings are extant with extensive exposed duct work and pipes. No alterations are evident on the basement level.

The ground floor retains its original configuration with the exception of the addition of two phone booths in the front room (dating to the late-1920s). All rooms retain their original ceiling height, although new duct work is in place with drop registers. The front room is a single large space with deteriorated sheet vinyl over wood floors. The original bead board

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section: 7      Page: 7

**Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas**

ceilings and light fixtures are in place. The original plaster walls are extant and in fair condition. The original wood trim, including baseboards and door and window casings, are intact and in excellent condition, most retaining their original varnished finish. There is a built-in half-wall/counter in the northeast corner of the ground floor and other large free-standing cabinets and shelving in place in the front room. A small office/workroom is located at the rear of the front room with interior doors and window. Two small half-baths are in place, one accessed from the workroom, the other from the corridor. A corridor runs from the rear of the front room, along the west side of the building to the door on the south end of the west side. There is a separate small office located at the rear of the building. Like the front room, the rear office has plaster walls, bead board ceilings, original wood trim, and the original light fixture. The original wood floor is in place and the name "Ben Winfough, Notary Public" (a long term tenant) is extant on the office door. Throughout the first floor, the interior doors and windows have Florentine glass. The doors are one light over three panel wood doors with an operable single-light transom.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is configured with a corridor along the east side; the only exterior access is through a door located approximately a third of the way back. A former rear door is in place but not functioning because the stair has been removed. The rear stair may have been removed when the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was converted to an apartment in 1949. A small "Shepard Home Lift" (manufactured by the Shepard Elevator Company in Cincinnati) elevator was installed in the southeast corner of the building. The elevator has a metal accordion door and actually blocks the former rear door. The corridor has plaster walls and ceilings, and sheet vinyl flooring. Doors off the corridor lead to each of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rooms with one exception. One former door opening has been infilled where a full bath was installed. The doors are single light over three panel wood doors, like on the ground floor; however, much of the wood on the second floor has been painted.

The corridor terminates at a small kitchen in the northeast corner of the building. The kitchen has vinyl tile wainscoting and VAT tile flooring. The same wainscoting is present in the full bath, most likely dating it to the apartment conversion in 1949. A metal sink and built-in wood cabinets are extant. There are five rooms along the west side of the building. A full bath is accessed through the third room and a small half-bath is located at the rear, accessed from the fifth room in the southwest corner of the 2nd floor. The full bath is the only obvious alteration. The rooms generally have plaster walls and ceilings and wood floors. Due to significant water damage, the plaster ceiling has been removed in rooms four and five at the rear of the 2nd floor. These two rooms are also distinguished from the others in that the wood work retains its original varnish finish, not painted like the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. There are cracks and some areas of deterioration in the plaster walls and ceilings. The vinyl flooring is in fair to poor condition but the wood floors appear to be sound.

Summary

With only minor alterations on the interior and exterior, the Rooks County Record Building stands as an extraordinarily intact representative of an early twentieth century Commercial Style building. The Record Building is clearly distinguished from the highly decorated row of 1880s commercial structures in the 400 block of Main, west of the site. The distinction is evidenced by the building's modern skeletal structure with vertical pilasters. The wide windows that span between the pilasters give the building a horizontal character in distinct contrast to the vertical Victorian style buildings dominant in downtown Stockton. The building design and configuration clearly reflects its non-retail, utilitarian function. It is significant as one of the only two-story Progressive Era buildings in downtown Stockton.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 8 Page: 8

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

The Rooks County Record Building is significant under National Register Criterion A and C. The building is representative of the third building boom that occurred in Stockton in the early twentieth century. Differentiated from Stockton's commercial buildings constructed in the 1880s, the Record Building is red brick, utilitarian in design and defined by its simplicity in form and detailing. The building is notable as a remarkably intact Progressive Era structure, maintaining integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Constructed as a post office by postmaster F.E. Young in 1911, the building served a prominent function in downtown Stockton throughout its history. In addition to housing the post office, the building was home to the local telephone office and the local newspaper (*The Stockton Review* and *The Rooks County Record*). The building also housed various service businesses including an optometrist, real estate and insurance office, and a beauty salon. Although originally named for F.E. Young, the building is locally known as the Record Building. *The Rooks County Record*, the local newspaper, occupied the building for over fifty years (c. mid-1930s - 1989). The building is significant as an extraordinarily intact example of an early twentieth century Commercial Style building and for its reflection of the growth and development of the town of Stockton in the early years of the twentieth century.

The Town of Stockton

Stockton is located in the Solomon River Valley on the eastern edge of the Great Plains in north central Kansas. The county, with a population of approximately 6,000, is known for its upland game hunting and water recreation. Major industries include agriculture, oil, manufacturing, and service-related businesses. Stockton, the county seat, is located near the center of the county and has a population of about 1500. Approximately 70 miles north of Hays, Stockton is centrally located between Kansas City and Denver at the intersection of U.S. Highways 183 and 24.

Three primary factors influenced Stockton's growth and prosperity throughout its history: its function as the seat of county government, railroad and highway transportation, and the success of farmers and ranchers in the region. Each of these factors impacted Stockton's ability to serve the surrounding region. Transportation and agricultural prosperity contributed greatly to the ebbs and flow of Stockton's development. The Rooks County Record Building dates to Stockton's third building boom which took place in the early 1900s. The first boom began shortly after the town was founded in the 1870s.

The Stockton Town Company was chartered in August of 1872 to develop a new community in the valley of the South Solomon River in Rooks County, which had been established by the state legislature in 1867 and named to honor Private John C. Rooks of the 11<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry.<sup>1</sup> Rooks County was officially organized and Stockton was selected as the county seat in 1872. Stockton grew slowly and steadily in the first thirteen years from its founding until the railroad arrived in 1885. The pre-railroad period was the first era of building construction, reliant upon the use of local materials – limestone and lumber. Growth during this period was fostered by an increase in population, adequate rainfall that led to successful agriculture, and the expectation of the coming railroad. The town grew from a population of about 100 with 20 buildings in early 1878, to a population of about 600 and over 100 buildings a year later.<sup>2</sup> Stockton was incorporated as a third class city in 1880 and Main Street was paved with limestone gravel the same year. The county's first courthouse and a stone school house were completed in 1881. Although some native limestone structures were built during this time, the majority of commercial structures were frame construction, built of Cottonwoods, native to the area. They were built with haste, with little thought to permanence; no commercial buildings from the first building boom survive today.

The majority of existing buildings in downtown Stockton date to the 1880s. The growth spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1885 resulted in the town's second building boom. At least three local brickyards were established providing a more economical alternative to the native limestone for building construction. In 1885 alone, more than 100 new buildings were built, in a town with a population just over 500. Some blocks of commercial buildings were constructed. In addition to the construction of new buildings, a number of the early structures were replaced in this era. Most of the commercial buildings were constructed of brick with decorative cornices and window hoods as the primary ornament. Typical of Midwest rural communities, the commercial structures were representative of Victorian styles, with Italianate being a predominate influence.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 8 Page: 9

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

The town experienced its first real challenge in the 1890s. Like most rural communities, Stockton relied heavily upon agriculture. The droughts of the 1890s resulted in a substantial decrease in the number of farms and prosperity of those that survived. The population of Rooks County plunged from 10,884 in 1887 to 7,144 in 1893; it was not until 1909 that the county regained its former population.<sup>3</sup> The first two decades of the twentieth century saw a return of economic prosperity and a period of slow and steady population growth resulting from improved agricultural conditions and later, World War I. Unlike the structures of the 1880s, the buildings constructed in the early 1900s were plain utilitarian structures, of modern fireproof construction with little ornamentation. This period saw the construction of a number of community churches and public buildings including the Carnegie library, a new school and a new courthouse. A number of one-story brick commercial structures were built during this time reflecting the prevalence of detached single-family residences rather than 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartments over commercial businesses. The Rooks County Record Building represents the early twentieth century building boom. Its modern, fireproof construction and utilitarian design exemplifies the Progressive Era.

World War I ended as did the agricultural prosperity of the early 1900s. The Dust Bowl and the Great Depression led to a continual decline in agricultural economy. By the early 1950s, the county's population had again reached pre-Depression levels and stabilized through the late 1960s. Since that time, the county has experienced a slow and steady decline in population. The county maintains a population of approximately 6000 today. The Rooks County Record closed its doors in 1989 and the building has been vacant since that time. The building was recently purchased by an out-of-state couple. The new owners are moving to Stockton and have plans to rehabilitate the building and open a retail business.

The Rooks County Record Building

The building at 501 Main Street was constructed in 1911 by F.E. Young, the postmaster at the time. The building served as a communications hub in downtown Stockton for nearly ninety years, housing three primary businesses - the post office, the telephone company, and local newspapers, *The Stockton Review* and *The Rooks County Record*. The building likely served as the post office for 25 years (the phone company moved to the ground floor in 1926). The phone company was housed in the building for 38 years (1916 until 1954), first on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, moving to the ground floor in 1926. The building is known locally as the Rooks County Record Building (although it was originally inscribed "F.E. Young Building"<sup>4</sup>) as the home to the local papers *The Stockton Review* and *The Rooks County Record* for much of its history until *The Record* closed in 1989. A summary of the building's occupants is outlined below.

- 1911 Post Office moved to its new location at 501 Main, a new building commissioned by postmaster F.E. Young. Later the same year, *The Stockton Review*, the local newspaper, moved into the basement of the new building.
- 1916 Telephone Company purchased by the United Telephone Company and moved upstairs in the Record Building.
- 1923 *The Stockton Review* and *The Rooks County Record* were purchased by Harry Covert and consolidated into a single paper. Although the location of the combined office is unknown, the papers appear to have moved into the 2<sup>nd</sup> story office of *The Record*, a block west of the existing Record Building (because the paper was located over the abstract office on Main Street when Hamilton purchased it in 1931)
- 1926 United Telephone Company moved to ground floor of the Record Building. Although undocumented, the post office likely moved out at this time.
- 1934 United Telephone Company was purchased by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. *The Rooks County Record* was purchased by C.W. Hamilton in 1931 and moved to the basement of the Record Building in the mid 1930s (Hamilton purchased the building from Southwestern Bell Telephone). Old photos show a beauty shop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Telephone Company on ground floor, and *The Record* in the basement.
- 1949 C.W. Hamilton and his wife, Lucia, moved into an apartment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- 1954 The Telephone Company constructed a new building and moved out of the Record Building. Dr. Dean, a local optometrist, had offices on the ground floor. Ben Winfough, a notary public had an office in the rear of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.
- 1971 *The Rooks County Record* changed to offset printing and moved their business office to the ground floor.
- 1989-90 The Rooks County Record closed and Lucia (Wallace) Hamilton died; the building has been vacant since.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 8 Page: 10

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

**The Post Office** - The Stockton post office was established in 1872. A listing of local postmasters indicates that Floyd E. Young was appointed postmaster on July 1, 1902. The August 10, 1911 edition of *The Stockton Review* noted that the post office moved to their new location at the corner of Main and Walnut. The building had been commissioned by postmaster F.E. Young. Young served as postmaster until July 30, 1912.<sup>5</sup>

**The Telephone Company** - Although primitive phones are documented in Stockton in 1881, it was in November of 1900 that the Stockton City Council granted a franchise to Dr. F. Armstrong of Greenleaf to construct, operate, and maintain a telephone system in Stockton. The business was called the Greenleaf Telephone Company and the office was located in the Higgins Block, across the street from the Record Building. Dr. Armstrong sold the company in 1901 and there were a number of subsequent early owners. The United Telephone Company purchased the business in 1916, with offices located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Record Building. Ten years later, boasting a capacity of 400 phones, the phone company moved to the ground floor of the Record Building. The company was sold to Southwestern Bell in 1934 and continued operation in the same location. The service was changed to a dial system in 1954; the phone company built a new building and vacated the Record Building.<sup>6</sup>

**The Rooks County Record**<sup>7</sup> - W.L. Chambers and Tom McBreen started the town's first newspaper, *The Rooks County Record*, in 1879. Chambers later bought out McBreen and continued the paper until 1923, when he sold it to Harry Covert. In the early years, *The Record* was located on the second floor over the abstract company on Main Street near the corner of Main and Cedar. W.L. Baker started *The Stockton Review* in 1906 which was also later purchased by Mr. Covert. The two papers were consolidated in 1923.<sup>8</sup>

C.W. (Cloyce Walton) Hamilton came to Stockton from Solomon and purchased the papers in April of 1931. *The Stockton Review* was dropped from the name of the paper and the paper again became *The Rooks County Record*.<sup>9</sup> Hamilton purchased the Record Building from Southwestern Bell Telephone in the mid 1930s and moved *The Record* into the basement (the former location of *The Stockton Review*). The local telephone company was located on the first floor at the time. C.W. Hamilton served as secretary to Congressman Frank Carlson in Washington D.C. When Carlson became Governor, C.W. continued on his press relations staff in Topeka. Hamilton later served as secretary of the Kansas Corporation Commission, resigning in 1948.<sup>10</sup> He returned to Stockton in 1949, and moved into an apartment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Record Building with his wife Lucia. C.W. died in 1952; Lucia (Wallace) continued to reside in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment until her death around 1990.

C.W. had two sons, Cloyce and Leon. When C.W. left Stockton to work for Frank Carlson, his sons ran the paper. Leon ran the paper in Stockton and Cloyce, in Medicine Lodge. Cloyce was killed in 1944. The family sold the paper in Medicine Lodge and kept the paper in Stockton. Upon C.W.'s death in 1952, his son Leon and C.W.'s widow, Lucia Wallace were co-editors of the paper. Leon's son Bob began working at the paper as a boy and later ran the paper. In 1971, the paper went to offset printing. The basement of the Record building was too small to hold the new equipment and the newspaper office. The business office moved upstairs at that time and the basement housed the printing equipment. Following a family dispute, Leon's son, Bob opened a rival paper in 1989 - *The Stockton Sentinel*. *The Rooks County Record* soon went out of business. *The Sentinel* continues to serve Stockton as the only local paper today. The Record Building has been vacant since that time.

Summary

The Rooks County Record Building is a community landmark. It is not only an intact example of early twentieth-century commercial architecture, but also a building which interprets the history of the community of Stockton. The building was the portal through which the community found out about the world serving as the local post office, Telephone Company, and the local newspaper. In a prominent location at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets in downtown Stockton, the Record Building represents the town's third boom during the Progressive Era, a period in which the community experienced a steady population growth due in large part to a healthy agricultural market. In a downtown defined primarily by 1880s commercial structures, the Record Building is distinguished as the only two-story commercial building constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building is an outstanding example of the utilitarian commercial structures typical of the Progressive Era.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section: 8 Page: 11

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

End Notes

<sup>1</sup> Leo E. Oliva, *Stockton Heritage in Wood, Stone, and Brick: The Town and its Historic Structures*. (City of Stockton, 1985) 1.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 16 and 33-34.

<sup>4</sup> "F.E. Young Building" is inscribed in stone over the corner entrance in old photographs provided by the City of Stockton and Rooks County Historical Society.

<sup>5</sup> Listing of early postmasters was provided by Jean Lindsey at the Rooks County Historical Society.

<sup>6</sup> History of the Stockton phone service was taken from "Telephones for Stockton" by local historian Bernice Brown, provided by the Rooks County Historical Society.

<sup>7</sup> Except where otherwise noted, information on the history of *The Rooks County Record* was obtained through an interview with Bob Hamilton, owner of *The Stockton Sentinel*, 19 November, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> *The Rooks County Record*, 14 March, 1940.

<sup>9</sup> Kansas State Historical microfilm of state newspapers confirm the following dates of Stockton papers: *The Rooks County Record* 1880 – 1923; *The Stockton Review* 1909 – 1920; *The Stockton Review and Rooks County Record* (combined) 1923 – 1931; and *The Rooks County Record* 1931 – 1989.

<sup>10</sup> *The Rooks County Record*, 14 March, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Sections 9-10 and Additional Documentation Page: 12

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

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- Rooks County Record, 14 March, 1940.
- "Rooks County Kansas Historical Visitor's Guide." Rooks County Commission, no date.
- "Stockton Kansas" marketing brochure. City of Stockton, no date.
- Stockton Review, 10 August and 9 November, 1911.

**Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description – Lot 25, Block 4 South Main, Stockton.

Boundary Justification – Boundary represents a traditional downtown lot, spanning from Main Street to the alley at the rear of the site.

**Additional Documentation**

- USGS map attached
- Figure 1 – Site Plan Sketch, Spencer 2004
- Figures 2 - 4 – Historic Views

Photographs

Photos were taken by Brenda Spencer November 19, 2004. Spencer holds the original negatives.

#	Description of View [direction of camera]
1	Building and site from northwest corner of Main and Walnut Streets [southeast]
2	Northwest corner entrance and front (north) facade [southeast]
3	Detail of cast iron exterior stairway accessing 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor on east side of building [south]
4	Stairwell on front (north side) of building providing access to garden terrace and exterior basement entry [west]
5	Areawell/garden terrace along west side of building (extends to north side under main corner entry) [north]
6	West facade [east]
7	Site from southwest showing rear facade and rear garage [northeast]
8	Basement – Front room looking toward exterior corner entrance [northwest]
9	Basement – Back room, looking toward front room [north]
10	Ground Floor – Front room, looking toward Main Street (corner entrance on left/phone booths on right) [north]
11	Ground Floor – Front room, looking toward rear of building [south]
12	Ground Floor – Small rear office [southeast]
13	Ground Floor – Door to rear office (inside entrance to building on south end of west facade) [east]
14	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Inside 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor entrance on north side of building, corridor looking toward Main Street [north]
15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Kitchen at northeast corner [north]
16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Corner room (northwest) overlooking Main Street [northwest]
17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Room on west side [northwest]
18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor – Small elevator at southeast corner [west]

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Sections 9-10 and Additional Documentation Page: 13

Rooks County Record Building  
Stockton, Rooks County, Kansas

MAIN STREET

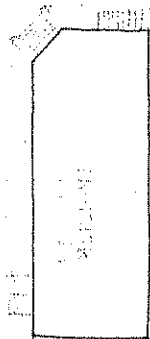
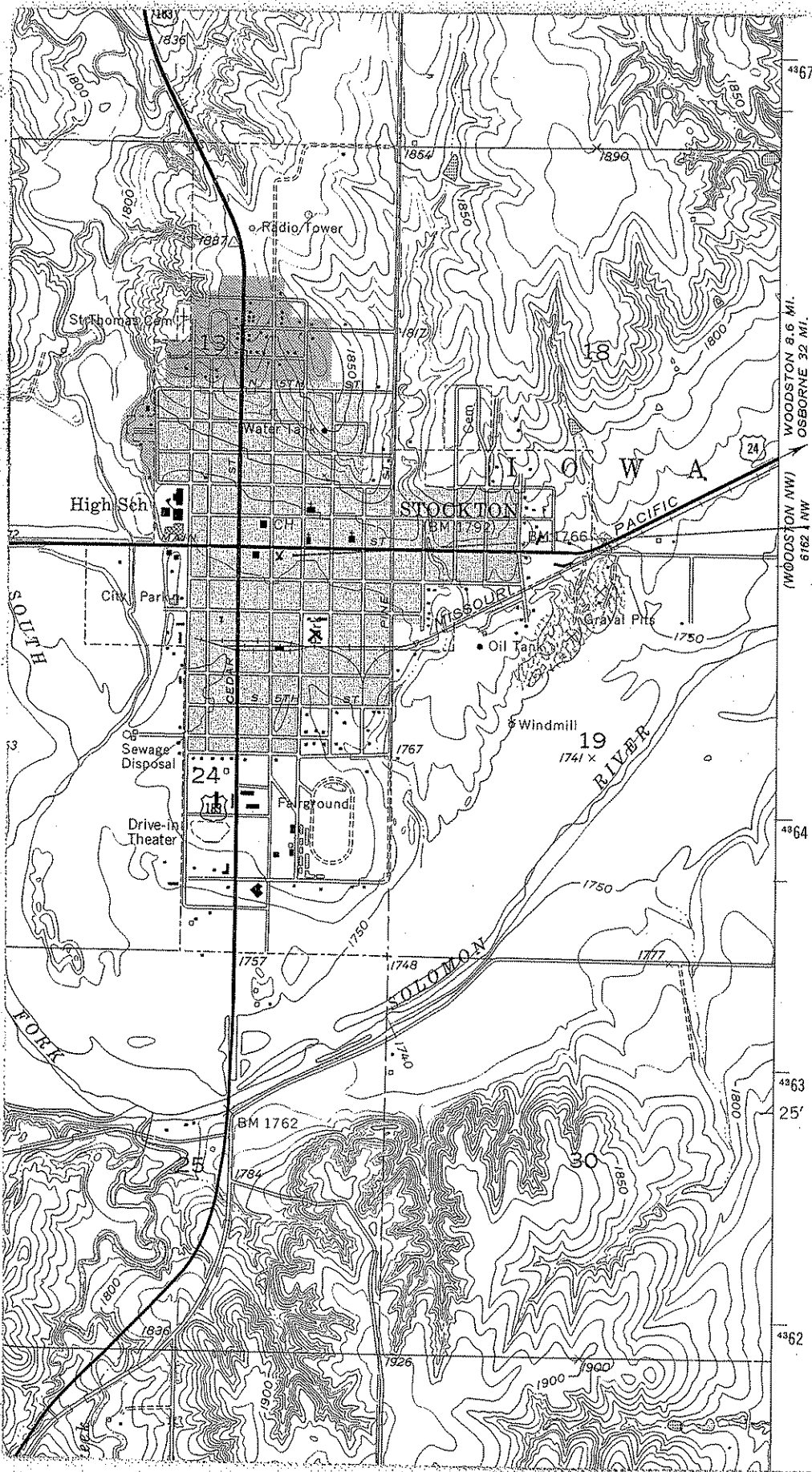


Figure 1 – Sketch of Site Plan, Spencer 2004



WOODSTON 8.6 MI.  
OSBORNE 32 MI.  
(WOODSTON NW)  
6162 J NW

ROCKS COUNTY RECORD BLDG  
ROCKS COUNTY, KANSAS  
UTM  
14 470402E  
4305209N